



Urban Youth: A Great Source of Untapped Growth

The world's growing urbanization means that a whole generation of youth will have a dramatically different life than their parents. The world's 3.3 billion urbanites now outnumber rural residents for the first time (UNFPA's State of the World Population 2007 Report). And the vast majority live in slums or periurban areas, places of sprawl, where public services are poor and housing conditions unhealthy. Most young people working in the urban informal sector live in slum areas: for example, 75 per cent in Benin in Africa, and 90 per cent in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad and Ethiopia. Most of this work is just bare survival work: according to the International Labour Organization, approximately 85 per cent of all new employment falls into this category.

Getting youth into quality work and earning more than enough simply to survive is critical to building a healthy society. Young people are bombarded every day with good and bad influences, and as UNFPA found in its Youth Supplement: [Growing Up Urban](#), "the interactions with the urban environment can have an intense impact on the socialization of young people, exposing them to a multitude of influences as they develop, experiment, question, and assume roles in their societies."

It is predicted that over the next 10 years, 1.2 billion youths will enter the working-age population (UNFPA). But youth unemployment is a huge problem around the world. Unemployed young people make up almost half (43.7 per cent) of the world's total unemployed (UNFPA). Young people aged 15 to 19 are more than three times as likely to be unemployed as adults. Young people are the future, a resource no society can afford to waste. If their innate energy and enthusiasm is tapped, countries can see significant economic growth.

There are youth entrepreneurs who are defying the gloom and coming up with great business ideas. Five finalists for BBC Swahili's regional entrepreneur competition - Faidika na BBC ([Prosper with the BBC](#)) - offer inspiration for youth across the South. Finalists from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda were selected for their bright schemes.

The overall winner was 24-year-old Burundian student Ashura Kisesa for a plan to build commercial public toilets in the cities and towns of East and Central Africa. Ashura, who entered but failed to reach the Faidika na BBC finals last year, has 12 brothers and sisters and is studying for a degree in agronomy at Burundi University.

"I am very happy to win the top prize in this competition," she told the BBC. "The lack of public toilets throughout East and Central Africa is a major problem that needs to be addressed and I hope to make a difference with my business idea. My whole family wanted me to win and they really supported me which makes me especially proud. I cannot wait to get started with my business."

On June 26 in Kampala, Uganda, Kisesa was awarded US \$5,000 to put towards her business.

Kenyan national winner, 22-year-old Witness Omoga from Kakamega, wants to make identity cards for schools. Right now he works as a volunteer at his uncle's photo studio, and hopes to get into Makerere University to pursue a degree in computer science. "I am very excited," he said to the BBC. "I have never been number one in my life, but now I have emerged first in this competition."

The Rwandan winner is a pioneer in the growing field of biomass energy production. A 17-year-old student from Kigali, Rangira Aime Frederick, impressed the panel of judges with his idea to turn domestic waste into energy. The national

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winner for Tanzania is a private tutor from Dar es Salaam, Apolinary Joseph Laksh. A business education tutor, 23-year-old Apolinary's idea is to produce charcoal from recycled materials to offer people in rural areas sustainable and affordable cooking fuel.

Ugandan finalist, 23-year-old Dereick Kajukano, is in his last year at Kampala International University doing a degree in business administration. Dereick's business idea is to make bags out of plastic trash. He was inspired by last year's Faidika na BBC winner, David Ssegawa from Uganda: "When I heard him defend his proposal on air, I said to myself, why don't I do it as well. That's when it all started, and here I am."

LINKS:

- 2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference: Designed as a participatory learning event, this conference aims to support youth enterprise and entrepreneurship programs and policies achieve greater effectiveness around the world.
Website: www.youthenterpriseconference.org
- KickStart is a South African project aimed at inculcating a culture of entrepreneurship among young people between the ages of 18 and 35, by promoting business awareness through training, providing grants as start-up capital and providing mentorship and assistance during the setting up phase of the business.
Website: <http://www.sabkickstart.co.za/>
- iDISC - the infoDev Incubator Support Center - is a virtual networking and knowledge-sharing platform for incubators and technology parks leveraging ICT to facilitate entrepreneurship and new business creation in developing countries.
Website: <http://www.idisc.net/en/Index.html>
- Climate Capital Network: this company offers strategic advice, intelligence and assistance with fundraising for low-carbon solutions around the world. They have 2,000 investors looking for projects to invest in.
Website: <http://www.climatecapital.net/>
- Global Entrepreneurship Week: the website for this event in November has many opportunities for youth entrepreneurs to connect with each other through social networking websites.
Website: <http://unleashingideas.org/welcome>

Innovative Mobile Phone Applications Storm South

The pace of change in information technology in the South is impressive, and nowhere has it been more rapid than in the take-up of mobile phones. In the past three years China has become the world's largest exporter of information and communications technology (ICT), and home to the same number of mobile-phone users (500 million) as the whole of Europe. According to India's [telecoms regulator](#), half of all urban dwellers now have mobile- or fixed-telephone subscriptions and the number is growing by eight million a month. In Tanzania, mobile phone use grew by 1,600 percent between 2002 and 2008. In Nigeria it grew by almost 7,000 percent over six years, from 5 percent of the population 140 million in 2002, to a predicted 34.3 per cent by the first quarter of this year.

But it is the Philippines that has become a global leader in mobile phone commerce. A whole panoply of banking tasks can now be done by mobile phone: transferring funds from one person to another, making small purchases, or paying fees.

"The most significant lesson learned so far," said Shawn Mendes, lead author on a report titled *The Innovative Use of Mobile Applications in the Philippines Lessons for Africa*. "Is that m-Banking, rather than more altruistic applications such as m-Health and m-Education, has delivered the greatest benefits to people in developing countries."

Access to basic banking services is vital for the world's poor: [The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor \(CGAP\)](#) found that over 3 billion poor people lack access to even the most minimal banking services to manage their lives.

But mobile phones have come to the rescue as the fastest growing consumer product in history. [Portio Research](#) estimates that between 2007 and 2012 the number of mobile subscribers will grow by another 1.8 billion, mostly in emerging economies like India and China.

The Philippines is not alone in introducing so-called m-Banking (mobile phone banking) Africa's leaders include the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CelPay), Kenya (M-PESA), South Africa (MTN MobileBanking and WIZZIT) and Zambia (CelPay).

"Safari-Com's M-Pesa in Kenya has grown rapidly from start-up in early 2007 to well over 1 million accounts today," said Mendes, the report author. "In May of this year Vodacom launched M-Pesa in Tanzania for their 4 million subscribers in that country. I expect very rapid growth of this service in Tanzania where less than 10 per cent of the adult population have conventional bank accounts. There are numerous other examples such as CelPay in Zambia and the Congo but I have been watching the success of M-Pesa in East Africa most closely"

But the Philippines has taken m-Banking the furthest, with two great models for other countries: [G-Cash](#) and [Smart Money](#). And the country has shown that it is possible to make these services attractive to the poor, not just the wealthy.

A combination of a good regulatory environment and an atmosphere of innovation brought mobile phone costs down, and made this possible. The mobile phone innovations were also successful because they mimicked existing consumer habits of the poor, piggy-backing on the extensive retail network of small village shops or "sari sari" stores. Poor Filipinos usually buy "tingi" or "sachets" of products like shampoo, fish sauce or soap. And it is in these shops that credit top-up centres were set up and prepaid phone cards sold.

Cleverly, mobile phone operators in the Philippines at first offered free SMS (short message service) text messaging. This was key to how m-Banking took off. As Smart Money's Napoleon Nazareno said: "there must be an existing SMS habit."

This should bode well for Africa, where an SMS habit has taken hold because it is so much cheaper than voice calls. Another important habit was prepayment. People learned how to use prepaid cards, call numbers and how to enter codes into phones to purchase credits. They learned how to check their credit balance and to electronically load credit on to their phone. This habit made m-Commerce much easier and fuelled its growth.

In South Africa, m-Banking services are revolutionizing daily life. Hair salon owner Andile Mbatha in Soweto used to have to travel for two hours by minibus to a bank to send money to his relatives. But by setting up a bank account with a service called [Wizzi](#), he no longer needs to keep stacks of cash in his salon (and risk robbery), can send money to his sister in Cape Town by phone, and receive payment for hair cuts by phone from his customers. "This has taken out a lot of stress," said Mr Mbatha.

For Southern entrepreneurs looking to get the most from mobile phones, another recent development will help. Mobile phone companies are following developments with computers and turning away from using only [proprietary software](#), to allowing [open source software](#). Over the next six months, this will mean small-scale entrepreneurs can get in on making applications for mobile phones on a massive scale. Two software companies are now involved: [Symbian](#), which provides the operating system for most of the new generation mobile phones with web access, and [Google's Android](#) open source operating system for mobiles. In Sub-Saharan Africa and East Africa, these applications will help to bypass the lack of internet bandwidth.

In India, poor rural farmers are using mobile phone text messaging to get an advantage over the commodity markets. With so-called "agflation" and "rising prices for food" it is crucial farmers keep on top of fluctuating commodity prices. Over 250 million Indians rely on farming for survival. But the pressure on farmers is severe and suicide rates are high.

Banana farmer Kapil Jachak is using a text messaging service to get the latest on the weather and daily market prices. The service, [Reuters Market Light](#), costs a dollar a month. It's a for-profit business venture by the global business news service, but helps farmers make money too. It already has 15,000 customers signed up.

This market knowledge gives the farmers a huge advantage when they compete with the traders in the wholesale markets of the city of Pune. "By getting the weather reports we can see exactly how much water our banana plants need," said Kapil to the BBC. "I keep my cost down, and get the best crop I can."

"This has increased my profit. I don't have to make some headache, and go to any market, any shopkeepers, and wholesalers. I can do my marketing easily and get more and more money." The service has already armed him with the knowledge to fight off banana stem weevils when they were attacking crops. The text recommended a pesticide.

LINKS:

- Twitter: a way to communicate linking mobile phone communications of up to 140 characters with the web. These free applications help users to set up the service and link with all their other internet applications.
[Website: http://twitter.pbwiki.com/Apps](http://twitter.pbwiki.com/Apps)
- The innovative use of mobile applications in the Philippines Lessons for Africa: A paper from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) on mobile phone innovation.
[Website: http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=118&a=33306&language=en](http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=118&a=33306&language=en)
- Textually.org: a very inspiring website profiling loads of innovations with mobile phones in the developing world.
[Website: http://www.textually.org/textually/archives/cat_mobile_phone_projects_third_world.htm](http://www.textually.org/textually/archives/cat_mobile_phone_projects_third_world.htm)
- Over 20 tested mobile internet phone applications that are useful and easy to use.
[Website: http://mashable.com/2008/01/02/20-mobile-internet-applications/](http://mashable.com/2008/01/02/20-mobile-internet-applications/)

Small-scale Farmers Can Fight Malaria Battle

Malaria is one of Africa's biggest killers. Each year globally 300 to 500 million people are infected, and around 1 million die from the disease ([theglobalfund](#)). Ninety percent of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa - mostly to children under the age of five. The disease costs African countries US\$12 billion a year in lost gross domestic product.

[Malaria](#) is a parasitic disease - the parasite plasmodium - transmitted by mosquito bites. Symptoms include fever, headache and vomiting. Internal bleeding, kidney and liver failure may follow and can result in coma and death.

The most common and effective treatment, recommended by the [World Health Organization](#), is artemisinin-based combination therapies, known as ACTs. ACTs have low toxicity, few side effects and act rapidly against the parasite. Research shows that artemisinin remedies cure 90 percent of patients within three days.

But there are far fewer doses available than people who need them. WHO has claimed the quantity made available by pharmaceutical companies falls far short of the more than 130 million doses required to combat malaria throughout the world.

And ACTs are very expensive to deliver: in just one country, Tanzania, providing such therapy for three years would cost US \$48.3 million. Every year, this would account for 9.5 percent of Tanzania's health budget, and 28.7 percent of yearly spending on medical supplies: a six-fold increase in budget for malaria treatment (Malaria Journal 2008, 7:4).

But a cheap alternative to the expensive pill form of the treatment is being piloted across Africa. It involves the drinking of a tea made from the bushes of the artemisia plant. [Artemisia annua](#) is an annual shrub and the active ingredient in the pills (artemisinin). It is native to China and Vietnam and has been used for 2,000 years to treat fevers.

Bushes cultivated by farmers in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique under the supervision of the [World Agroforestry Centre](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, are helping to bring down malaria rates without the long wait for the pills to arrive.

The leaves are boiled and made into a tea. Drinking the tea gives a high enough dose of artemisinin in the blood to cure malaria. Helen Meyer, a nurse operating nine mobile health clinics in rural Mozambique, is using the bitter tea made from the dried leaves. Even in treating drug resistant malaria, she has found the artemisia tea effective: "If you drink the tea, you feel better after the first day. Other medicines take a few days."

A special hybrid of artemisia, A-3, is used because it is adapted for warmer climates. The wild variety grows to only five centimetres in the tropics, but A-3 grows to three metres and packs 20 times more artemisinin. It is also highly economical: thousands of plants can come from a single stem.

The daily adult dose of anti-malaria tea just needs five grams of dried A-3 leaves in one litre of water. The tea is drunk every six hours for seven days. Each plant produces 200 grams of dried leaves, and a thousand shrubs can cure 5,700 people. Since it is a cheap cure, money can be spent instead on other things. Farmers are also able to supplement their income by growing the bushes. And the dried leaves have long-lasting power: even after three years the leaves retain close to a 100 percent of their artemisinin.

Access to authentic artemisinin is critical: it is estimated 16 percent of malaria medicines in Kenya are counterfeit. Elsewhere, the proliferation of counterfeit anti-malarials substantially raises the risk of the emergence of resistance to artemisinin combination therapy, the last truly effective treatment against malaria. Past misuse of other malaria drugs, such as chloroquine in the 1980s and sulphadoxine/pyrimethamine in the 1990s, resulted in the malaria parasite becoming resistant. Hundreds of thousands of people in malaria-prone areas may have died as a result.

The World Agroforestry Centre, recognizing potential problems with artemisinin monotherapies, is working to combine it with indigenous herbal remedies made from other anti-malarial trees, producing a herbal combination therapy (HCT).

"I used to grow fruits and beans here," said Charles Kiruthi, a Kenyan farmer, to the IRIN news service. "but I will get a better return from this plant. No pests attack it, and until harvesting time it requires very little labour."

"I expect to get a good return, and I am also very happy to be helping fight malaria," continued Kiruthi. "I recently lost two friends to the disease, and my child gets sick with malaria sometimes."

LINKS:

- World Health Organization Malaria fact sheet:
[Website: http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/cmc_upload/0/000/015/372/RBMInfosheet_1.html](http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/cmc_upload/0/000/015/372/RBMInfosheet_1.html)
- Malaria Drug Resistance map documents the areas where conventional drugs do not work
[Website: http://www.irinnews.org/images/indepth/Malaria/malaria-drug-resistance-map.htm](http://www.irinnews.org/images/indepth/Malaria/malaria-drug-resistance-map.htm)
- World Health Organization worldwide malaria profile map:
[Website: http://www.irinnews.org/images/indepth/Malaria/WHO-worldwide-malaria-profile.htm](http://www.irinnews.org/images/indepth/Malaria/WHO-worldwide-malaria-profile.htm)
- A film documentary on malaria by the IRIN news service:
[Website: http://www.irinnews.org/film/Malaria_Killer_Number_One.htm](http://www.irinnews.org/film/Malaria_Killer_Number_One.htm)
- WHO monograph on good agricultural and collection practices
[Website: http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/traditional/ArtemisiaMonograph.pdf](http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/traditional/ArtemisiaMonograph.pdf)
- Malaria travel advice.
[Website: http://www.malariahotspots.co.uk/index.asp](http://www.malariahotspots.co.uk/index.asp)

Tapping the Power of Child Play

Children are an amazing source of energy. Each generation fizzles with the restlessness and optimism of youth. But all that energy is expended in the playground, leaving behind nothing but the sound of laughter. What if that energy could actually be harnessed and turned into electricity? And electricity to power the cash-strapped school the children need to attend to get a good head start in life?

Meeting the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education would be significantly helped if schools had electricity and in turn the ability to use computers and the Internet. As well, school buildings can be used to their maximum if they have lights for night schools, and expand to secondary and adult education. It is typical practice in Africa to use schools in the evenings for older students. But usually they only have kerosene lamps to turn to for light.

The need is urgent for electricity for schools in Africa: even sub-Saharan Africa's richest nation, South Africa, has 5,131 schools without electricity. And in the battle for energy, schools have to compete with businesses and cities, as increasing demand makes power outages more common.

Child-power is currently used to run Playpumps' merry-go-rounds, drawing water from wells. But a children's see-saw hopes to use the same principle to bring light to power-starved African schools. Children in Uganda are involved in a pilot test of a see-saw that generates electricity with the simple up-and-down motion of the playground ride. The electricity generated is sent to a storage battery via an underground cable. Just five to 10 minutes on the see-saw can generate enough electricity to light a classroom for an evening.

The see-saw is being tested in the Ugandan city of Jinja, made from locally sourced parts, and has been designed by 23-year-old British design student Daniel Sheridan. He was inspired after volunteering on a school trip to the island of Wasimi, south of Mombasa, Kenya, while building a school and teaching.

"The number of children we saw there that loved to play, and their vibrancy, I thought it would be great if I could somehow make use of this," he told the BBC.

"They don't have Gameboys and all the rest. They are just so genuine and keen to help - they would grab the wheelbarrows we were working with given the chance."

Sheridan won £5,500 (US \$10,930) to further develop the idea at various university student enterprise award schemes. The money is being used for prototype development.

"The current need for electricity in sub-Saharan Africa is staggering. Without power, development is extremely difficult. The potential for this product is huge and the design could be of benefit to numerous communities in Africa and beyond."

After the prototype testing in Uganda he hopes to either start a business or charity to manufacture the see-saws.

His dream? "Ultimately I would love to design a whole playground of different pieces of equipment that could generate enough electricity to power a whole village."

LINKS:

- Playpumps International: More child-powered ways to make a difference: these water pumps draw water from a well while children spin on the merry-go-round.
Website: <http://www.playpumps.org>
- OUIP! Or Optimized Universal Interface Platform: This white plastic handheld electronic bar uses the child's play motion to power it, while it makes noises and displays images.
Website: www.thinkthing.net
- Sprig Toys: Electro-mechanical toys made from wood and recycled plastic that are run on child-power only.
Websites: www.sprigtoys.com

Window on the World

- **Africa's Ecological Footprint: Human Well-Being and Biological Capital Factbook and Africa: Ecological Footprint and Human Well-Being**

by the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and Global Footprint Network.

—The report says that despite over-consumption of resources in some countries, Africa's overall ecological footprint at 1.1 hectares of land and sea - is still behind the continent's total biocapacity of 1.3 hectares per head of population. And the African figures are still well below the global average footprint of 2.2 hectares per person which, with 1.8 hectares available, is running at a rate suggesting humanity will need two planets by 2050. But the big danger for the continent is that its current population of some 680 million is growing rapidly and is predicted to double, meaning Africa will account for nearly a quarter of the world's people by 2050.

Website: http://www.footprintnetwork.org/gfn_sub.php?content=africa

- **Africa Progress Panel Report**
by Africa Progress Panel, chair, Kofi Annan.
–The Panel demands action on the global food crisis which is "reversing decades of economic progress."
Website: www.africaprogresspanel.org
- **Global Report on Human Settlements 2007**
by UN Habitat.
–It finds stagnating agricultural production in Africa is fuelling a population drift from rural areas to the cities that may lead to civil unrest, according to the head of UN Habitat, Anna Tibajuka
Website: www.unhabitat.org
- **Africa in 2048**
by Jasper Grosskurth, Publisher: STT (Stichting Toekomstbeeld der Technologie/STT Netherlands Study Centre for Technology Trends.
–Aflash forward to 2048, when Africa would be the world's boom region. After the installation of the third fibre optic cable in EastAfrica in 2010 and unrest in India in 2023, the local ICT sector exploded. In 2048, EastAfrica has become the hub for international service provision. From 2020 onwards, Nigeria heavily invested in flora technology, profiting from the biodiversity of neighbouring Cameroon. The technology caused an enormous economic stimulation for West Africa. During the next 18 months, the project will bring together experts from business, NGOs and research to develop scenarios on the future of technology in Africa.
Website: www.stt.nl
- **Business for Development 2008: Promoting Commercial Agriculture in Africa**
Publisher: OECD.
–It takes a fresh look at the way the world food-price crisis is affecting Africa. With the continent losing out in world agricultural trade– the share of African products in world agricultural imports has fallen from 5.4 to 3.2 per cent between the mid 1980s and 2006– the report finds that the curse of higher food prices work to Africa's advantage if African agriculture finally becomes a business.
Website: www.oecd.org
- **African Economic Outlook**
Publisher: OECD, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
–Africa's 5.7 per cent GDP growth in 2007 will approach 6 per cent over the next two years. It provides comprehensive analysis of economic, social and political development in 35 African countries with a 2008 focus on technical skills development as a critical factor for economic growth and stability.
Website: <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/>
- **Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment**
Publisher: UNEP.
–This stunning 400-page report is a unique and powerful publication which brings to light stories of environmental change at more than 100 locations spread across every country in Africa.
Website: www.unep.org

Upcoming Events

September

- **13th World Water Congress**
Montpellier, France (1-4 September 2008)
–The Congress will provide an excellent forum to meet, discuss and network on water-related issues at the national, regional and global levels. Leading international water experts and policy-makers are being specially invited to discuss the latest developments on different aspects of water management from different parts of the world, and synthesize knowledge in terms of what is being implemented, where and why.
Website: <http://www.worldwatercongress2008.org/>
- **African Carbon Forum**
Dakar, Senegal (3-5 September 2008)
–Responding to calls for more clean development mechanism (CDM) projects in Africa and growing carbon market interest in the continent, partner UN agencies and the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) will organize a carbon forum in Senegal under the umbrella of the Nairobi Framework.
Website: [PDF Document](#)
- **8th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production**
Cebu, Philippines (18-20 September 2008)
–APRCP's approach is to promote technology and information exchange, and to encourage cooperation and partnerships among government, industry, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. APRCP's mission is to provide leadership and support that will enhance information flow and human resource development, and will strengthen public-private partnership to stimulate the promotion and implementation of cleaner production strategies and technologies in the region.
Website: www.aprscp.org/roundtables/8th.htm
- **TEDAfrica: A gathering of the greatest thinkers and doers from Africa and the world**

Cape Town, South Africa (29 September to 1 October 2008)

–What if Africa had no borders? What if her boundaries extended as far as those living in the diaspora, or even further? What if you could fly directly from Cape Town to Cairo, Lagos to Luanda, Bujumbura to Abuja? Or what if you could drive to every city and every town and every village? What if the Internet was a reality for every African? What if you could call the world from atop the Kilimanjaro, or from deep in the forests of the Congo?

Website: [tedafrica](http://tedafrica.com)

- **2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference**

Washington DC, USA (15-16 September 2008)

–Making Cents International is excited to announce that the Global Youth Enterprise Conference will take place in Washington, DC September 15th-16th, 2008 at the Cafritz Conference Center. Designed as a participatory learning event, this conference aims to support youth enterprise and entrepreneurship programs and policies achieve greater effectiveness around the world. It will build on the outcomes of the first-ever Global Youth Microenterprise Conference, which Making Cents International organized for 270 practitioners, policymakers, educators, youth, and members of the private sector from 28 countries in September 2007. Making Cents is planning this year for 350 participants to share their promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. We invite you to submit a proposal, become a sponsor or exhibitor, and/or register!

Email: conference@makingcents.com

Website: www.youthenterpriseconference.org

- **Emission Markets India 2008**

Mumbai, India (26-27 Sept. 2008)

–The objective of this event is to create awareness about CDM activity and attract the project developers and sellers to come and attend this meet and meet the buyers, banks and trading house of the carbon credit industry.

Website: http://www.tco2eindia.com/conference_detail.php?id=0

October

- **World Conservation Congress 2008**

Barcelona, Spain (5-14 October 2008)

–Held every four years, the World Conservation Congress is one of the world's most important events devoted to improving our natural environment for human, social and economic development. More than 8,000 leaders from governments, NGOs, business, UN agencies, scientific domains and community groups are expected to attend.

Website: www.iucn.org/congress/2008/index.htm

- **Carbon Finance 2008**

London, United Kingdom (9-11 Oct. 2008)

–This event will provide an in-depth update on the global carbon markets. Attend to hear top-level industry speakers give a full global carbon update - the outlook for the Kyoto process, recent legislation and emissions trading activity on an international level. Participate in nine brainstorming roundtable discussions, and numerous thought-provoking panel sessions.

Website: www.environmental-finance.com

- **BioMarine 2008**

Marseille, France (20-24 October 2008)

–Biomarine is a worldwide initiative that helps nurturing innovative solutions to advance ocean sustainability, bringing together business, science, government, civil society and the media. This Forum is the official marine event of the French Presidency of the European Union.

Website: www.biomarine.org/

- **ReThinking Transportation for a Sustainable Future**

Louisville, KY, USA (28-29 Oct. 2008)

–This conference is designed to foster communication between academics and professionals working on energy and transportation issues, introduce new techniques and policies for energy and transportation sustainability and have attendees contribute to the development of a common language and collective vision for a sustainable set of energy and transportation policies.

Website: www.rethinkingtransportation.com

November

- **CSR Asia Summit 2008**

Bangkok, Thailand (3-4 November 2008)

–Amidst a growing call for companies to engage with CSR initiatives in Asia, the event is poised to explore hot topics unique to the Asian context, which would bring new insights for businesses, governments, NGOs and other CSR practitioners.

Website: <http://www.csr-asia.com/summit08/>

- **Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum**

Nanjing, China (3-7 November 2008)

–The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the urban poor's access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and

achieve environment-friendly, sustainable urban growth and development.

Website: www.unhabitat.org

- **South Africa: The Power of Movements – Announcement and call for proposals**

Cape Town, South Africa (14-17 November 2008)

–Up to 1,500 women's rights activists from around the world will gather to debate and strategize about how to build a stronger global women's movement. Proposals are sought for organizing a session.

Website: www.awid.org

- **Global Entrepreneurship Week**

Around the world (17-23 November 2008)

–For one week, millions of young people around the world will join a growing movement of entrepreneurial people to generate new ideas and to seek better ways of doing things. Dozens of countries are coming together for the first time to host Global Entrepreneurship Week, an initiative to inspire young people to embrace innovation, imagination and creativity. To think big. To turn their ideas into reality. To make their mark.

Website: <http://unleashingideas.org/welcome>

Training Opportunities

ONGOING

- **Microenterprise and Development Institute New Hampshire 2008**

Manchester, New Hampshire, USA (8-21 June 2008)

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

–The MDI New Hampshire offers another highly relevant programme for microfinance and community development practitioners. The two-week programme presents 19 courses in three Knowledge Tracks: Microfinance, Pro-Poor Enterprise Development and Community Economic Development. Academic credit and Masters degree options are available.

Email: w.maddocks@snhu.edu

Telephone: 603-644-3124

Website: www.mdi-nh.org

- **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**

[Grameen Info](#)

- **The Citizen Journalism in Africa Programme**

–The Hivos/SANGONeT Civil Journalism in Africa Project aims at building the capacity of civil society organisations to use online and offline citizen journalism as a means of publication, lobby, networking and knowledge sharing with their constituencies. The focus will be on both traditional and new media. Special attention will be given to the development of sound and ethical journalistic, lobby, networking and publication skills. Supported by the European Union, the project will be implemented over the next three years.

<http://www.citizenjournalismafrica.org/>

- **The Grassroots Reporting Project**

–One of our goals at AfriGadget (<http://www.afrigadget.com/>) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.

Website: <http://www.afrigadget.com/>

CAREERS

- **New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**

–Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, [africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com) is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**

–A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social bookmarking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

- **Funding - Google.org**

–While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment. [Website: www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

- **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

–This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

[Website: www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

- **Piramal Foundation in India**

–Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

[Website: www.piramalprize.org](http://www.piramalprize.org)

- **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

–This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

[Website: Pioneers of Prosperity](http://Pioneers of Prosperity)

- **African Writers Fund**

–Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

[Website: http://www.trustafrica.org](http://www.trustafrica.org)

- **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

–Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Email: namstct@snl.com;](mailto:namstct@snl.com)

[namstct@bol.net.in;](mailto:namstct@bol.net.in)

[apknam@gmail.com;](mailto:apknam@gmail.com)

[Website: http://www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net)

- **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

–Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

[Click here for more information](#)

- **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

–AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

[Website: http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/](http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/)

- **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and

international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za>

■ **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

–A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

■ **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

–They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: <http://www.echoinggreen.org/>

■ **2008 Sustainable Banking Awards**

–The Financial Times, in partnership with IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, today launched the 2008 edition of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards, the leading awards for triple bottom line banking.

Two new categories - Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year - have been added to the ground-breaking programme.

The awards, now in their third year, were created by the FT and IFC to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.

Website: <http://www.ifc.org>

■ **Challenge InnoCentive**

–A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com/>

You can read more about the challenges here: <http://www.rockfound.org>

■ **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

–Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)

- [ReliefWeb Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [ReliefWeb Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [TrustAfrica](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta
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